

REMARKS

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

The examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 21 under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Prins et al. (5,627,695). The applicant respectfully disagrees.

Regarding claim 1, the examiner asserts that Prins discloses a disk drive comprising a disk having a plurality of tracks, wherein each track comprises a plurality of servo sectors including a first index servo sector and a second index servo sector (col. 4, line 66 to col. 5, line 18). This interpretation of Prins is incorrect. Prins discloses a conventional disk format wherein each track comprises a single index servo sector. At col. 5, lines 14-16, Prins discloses a conventional HDA that “preferably generates an index pulse when a particular one of the servo cells 105 passes under the read/write head.” In addition, Prins discloses at col. 6, lines 7-8, that the “index pulse indicates when the read/write head is over a ‘reference’ servo cell 105.” The rejection should therefore be withdrawn since Prins does not disclose or suggest a track comprising a plurality of servo sectors including a first index servo sector and a second index servo sector.

Prins discloses the same prior art disk format shown in FIG. 1 of applicant’s specification which is described in detail in the background as utilizing a single index servo sector per track. In contrast, FIG. 3A, 3B, 4A and 4B show embodiments of the present invention wherein each track comprises multiple index servo sectors. The rejection should be withdrawn.

In addition, claim 1 recites to initialize a servo sector counter relative to which index mark is detected, whereas Prins discloses at col. 3, lines 18-20, that when the “index pulse occurs, the count value of the servo zone counter is reset to a known value.” The rejection should therefore be withdrawn since Prins does not disclose to initialize a counter relative to which (of multiple) index servo sectors is detected.

The rejection of claim 12 should be withdrawn at least because Prins does not disclose or suggest detecting one of first and second index marks, or initializing a servo sector counter relative to which index mark is detected.

The rejection of claims 2, 4, 5, 10, 13, 15, 16 and 21 should be withdrawn for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

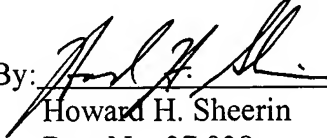
The examiner rejected claims 11 and 22 under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Prins in view of Serrano (6,034,835). The examiner rejected claims 3 and 4 under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Prins in view of Buch (5,274,509). The examiner rejected claims 6-8 and 17-19 under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Prins in view of Nemazie et al. (5,848,438). The examiner rejected claims 9 and 20 as unpatentable over Prins in view of Nemazie and further in view of Yanagi et al. (5,673,243).

The rejection of these claims should be withdrawn for at least the reasons set forth above, and because none of the relied upon prior art references disclose or suggest the limitations recited in the dependent claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the rejections under 35 USC §102 and 35 USC §103 should be withdrawn. The examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned over the telephone in order to resolve any remaining issues that may prevent the immediate allowance of the present application.

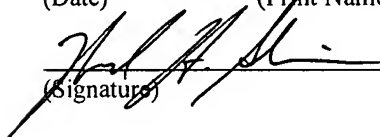
Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on:

1/20/06 Howard H. Sheerin
(Date) (Print Name)


(Signature)